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*The BRITISH and FRENCH ARMIES. Comparative Statements,
1860-61.*

THE following important and interesting comparative analysis of the British and French Armies in 1860-61, is from the "Times" of 25th May, 1861:—

"During recent debates in the House of Commons, reference has been repeatedly made to the Military and Naval forces of France, as well as to their cost in comparison with the sums voted under the Army and Navy Estimates in England. On a late occasion Mr. Monsell stated that 'the French Estimates for 400,000 men were 14,000,000*l.*;' and, contrasting it with the strength and cost of the British land forces, drew a conclusion very unsatisfactory to the British taxpayer. But the Hon. Member for Limerick presented a very one-sided and altogether inaccurate view of the question; for although he quoted the sum appropriated to the Minister of War in the French Budget for 1862, he omitted items of military expenditure which are included in votes for other Ministries—Finance, State, Colonies, Interior, and Public Works, and the counterparts whereof are comprehended in the British Army Estimates. Evidently these ought not to have been left aside, and above all things there should have been taken into consideration the value of compulsory servitude in the Army and Navy of France—that is to say, the value between the market price of labour and the price paid for it by Government, which represents a portion of the tax paid by the nation towards its defences—a tax which is emphatically and truthfully called *l'impôt du sang*.

"The total land forces of France amount to 400,000 of all ranks, with 85,705 horses, and 5,658 *enfants de troupe*, independently of troops in French colonies (besides Algeria), whose numbers are not given, but whose cost is charged to the Navy and Colonial Budget, and of 2,894 men, 663 horses in the Garde de Paris. Classing all ranks, according to arms, in France and Algeria, and comparing them with a similar classification of the English forces, there will be:—

Corps.	France and Algeria.	England and Colonies.	England, Colonies, and India, exclusive of late Company's Troops.
Staff.....	4,607	1,222	1,222
Infantry	259,841	101,230	150,128
Cavalry	76,903	13,194	18,210
Artillery	37,873	22,393	28,520
Engineers	6,384	4,535	4,535
Train	5,655	1,909	1,909
Administrative services	8,737	1,561	1,561
Indian depôts in England	—	—	6,688
<i>Total</i>	400,000	146,044	212,773
Horses	85,705	8,262	21,904

“ The most remarkable features resulting from the comparison of the above figures, are the enormous proportionate *superiority* of the French in cavalry, staff, train, and administrative services. With only twice and a-half the number of foot soldiers, they have, speaking in round numbers, five times as many in the administrative services—if we take as their equivalent our hospital and commissariat staff corps—three times as many in the train, four times as many in the staff, and six times the cavalry that we have, besides ten times as many horses, while they have but one-third more in the engineers, and about one-half more in the artillery. Again, in the French service, the proportion of officers to men is as one to sixteen, and in the English service as one to nineteen. It may be doubted if economy could be pushed farther with prudence in this respect, for to reduce the number of officers, would be to impair the efficiency and mobility of the army. They are the pivots on which the machine turns; while, whatever changes may be destined to take place in consequence of the introduction of Armstrong guns and Enfield rifles, there is no proof that cavalry will play a less important part in future wars than it has hitherto done. Such being the case, the propriety of a further reduction of cavalry, as was proposed in the House of Commons, may be reasonably questioned.

“ The number of men that will be required to be taken by *conscription* to keep up this force is 40,000—for the infantry, 22,180; for the cavalry, 9,200; for the artillery, 6,720; for the engineers, 1,400; and for the train, 1,500.

“ The army is distributed—334,310 men, with 69,809 horses in *France*, and 65,690 men with 15,896 horses in *Algeria*—namely, in *France*—staff, 4,184; cent gardes, 221; imperial guard, including all arms, 29,890; gendarmerie, 20,042; infantry, 190,669; cavalry, 45,809; artillery, 30,831; engineers, 4,249; train, 2,348; veterans, 648; and administrative services, 6,148. In *Algeria*—staff, 423; infantry, 40,762; cavalry, 9,996; artillery, 4,057; engineers, 1,826; train, 2,374; and administrative services, 2,589.

“ The *Staff* is composed of 10 marshals, 90 generals of division in *activité*, and 77 in reserve; 160 generals of brigade, and 172 in reserve; 39 colonels, 37 lieutenant-colonels, 147 majors, 150 first captains, and 161 second captains, 8 intendants-general, 26 military intendants, and 36 in reserve, 150 sub-intendants, and 80 *adjuncts*. The staff of fortified places consists of 27 colonels, 19 lieutenant-colonels, 47 majors, and 63 captains commanding, 13 majors (*majors de place*), 5 chaplains, 101 captains-adjutant, and 49 lieutenants-adjutant, 12 captains, 12 lieutenants, and 4 sub-lieutenants, secretaries of archives, and 367 porters. The artillery staff consists of 33 colonels, directors of artillery, and inspectors of arms' factories, forges, foundries, &c.; 39 lieutenant-colonels, directors, and sub-directors, commanding artillery in fortified places; 84 majors, 120 first captains, aide-de-camps, and 15 second captains in the central dépôt, military schools, factories, &c.; 80 captains, permanently attached; 120 sub-lieutenants, pupils at Metz; 18 professors in artillery schools, besides various subordinates. The engineers' staff consists of 29 colonels, directors of fortifications; 29 lieutenant-colonels, 108 majors, aide-de-camps, and in military schools; 150 first

captains, of whom 8 are in the colonies, 130 second captains, of whom 4 are in the colonies, 20 lieutenants, 50 sub-lieutenants, pupils at Metz, 1 examiner, and 9 professors, besides subordinates.

"The Emperor's household troops are the Cent Gardes—a squadron of 221 strong, with 179 horses.

"The imperial guard, composed of picked and well trained men, is an army corps complete in itself, numbering 29,890 all ranks, with 7,938 horses, and 571 *enfants de troupe*. It is divided into—

"*Infantry*.—3 regiments of Grenadiers, and 4 of Voltigeurs, or light infantry, the regiment consisting of 4 battalions, each of 6 companies, and 2,200 strong; 1 regiment of Zouaves, of 2 battalions, each of 7 companies; and 1 battalion of foot Chasseurs of 10 companies. A company is composed of 3 officers, 6 non-commissioned officers, 8 corporals, 2 drummers forming the *cadre*, and 66 privates, 85 in all.

"*Cavalry*.—2 regiments of Cuirassiers, 1 of Dragoons, 1 of Lancers, 1 of Guides, and 1 of Chasseurs. The regiment consists of 6 squadrons, 1,047 of all ranks, and 801 horses. The squadron is composed of 8 officers, 10 non-commissioned officers, 31 brigadiers and farriers, and 4 trumpeters forming the *cadre*, and 111 privates, giving a total of 154 officers and privates, with 120 horses.

"*Gendarmerie*.—1 regiment of 2 battalions, each of 8 companies, 1,461 of all ranks, and 1 squadron of horse, 135 of all ranks, and 141 horses.

"*Artillery*.—1 division on foot of 2 batteries, 1 regiment of field artillery (*monté*) of 8 batteries, 1,412 of all ranks, and 920 horses; 1 regiment of horse artillery of 6 batteries, 1,114 of all ranks, and 1,045 horses; and 1 squadron of artillery train of 2 companies, together 210 all ranks, with 162 horses.

"*Engineers*.—1 division of 2 companies, 309 of all ranks, and 822 horses.

"*Train*.—1 squadron of 4 companies, 933 of all ranks, and 26 horses.

"The proportion of arms therefore in the *Imperial Guard* is 19,245 infantry, 6,418 cavalry, 2,985 artillery, and 16 batteries, 209 engineers, and 933 train.

"The *Gendarmerie*, in France, 27 legions, or 92 companies, besides 1 company of veterans and 1 legion in Algeria, or 4 companies—consists of 20,042 of all ranks, of which 660 are officers, 13,235 are cavalry, and 6,147 are foot.

"The *Army of the Line* consists of—infantry, 103 regiments of the line, 20 battalions of foot chasseurs, 3 regiments of Zouaves, 3 battalions of African light infantry, 2 regiments of the foreign legion, and 3 regiments of Algerian rifles—in all 357 battalions and 7 discipline companies. 95 regiments of the line are stationed in France. Each consists of 1,823 officers and privates, divided into 3 battalions of 8 companies each. The company is composed of 3 officers, 6 non-commissioned officers, 8 corporals, and 2 drummers or buglers, forming the *cadre*, and 51 privates, or 70 in all. Eight line regiments have 9 dépôt battalions in France, and each 2 battalions in Algeria, where the regiment of 2 battalions consists of 1,974 of all ranks. A battalion of foot chasseurs has 8 com-

panies, each containing 3 officers, 7 non-commissioned officers, 8 corporals, forming the *cadre*, and 53 privates, making a total of 75 of all ranks. A regiment of Zouaves has 2,786 of all ranks, divided into 3 battalions, each of 9 companies. A battalion of African light infantry has 5 companies, and musters 755 of all ranks. A regiment of the foreign legion has 3 battalions, each of 8 companies, and a regiment of African rifles has 2,563 of all ranks, divided into 3 battalions, each of 7 companies.

Cavalry.—58 regiments and 10 companies of *remonte* (studs) and veterinaries, namely, 2 regiments of Carabineers, 10 Cuirassiers, 12 Dragoons, 8 Lancers, 11 Chasseurs, 6 Hussars, 6 African Chasseurs, and 3 Spahis (Arabs). The regiments in France consist each of 882 of all ranks and 660 horses, divided into 6 squadrons. A squadron is composed of 7 officers, 8 non-commissioned officers, 16 brigadiers and farriers, and 4 trumpeters forming the *cadre*, and 95 privates, or 130 of all ranks, with 100 horses. A regiment of the African Chasseurs musters 1,127 of all ranks and 975 horses, divided into 6 squadrons, each of 170 all ranks, and 148 horses. A regiment of Spahis has 1,163 of all ranks, and 1,240 horses, likewise divided into 6 squadrons, each of which numbers 177 of all ranks, and 191 horses.

Artillery.—19 regiments, 1 regiment artillery train, 1 regiment pontoniers, and 14 companies of workmen. The 19 regiments give 103 field batteries horsed (*montées*), 70 foot batteries, 32 horse batteries, and 7 mountain batteries, numbering 28,823 of all ranks, with 11,707 horses. The regiment of artillery train has 6 squadrons, 5 of 5 companies, and 1 of 10 companies (in Algeria), of 3,509 of all ranks, and 2,623 horses. The regiment of pontoniers musters 12 companies, containing 1,414 of all ranks, and 111 horses. The 14 companies of workmen number 1,152, officers and privates.

Engineers.—3 regiments in France, mustering each 1,911 of all ranks, and 20 horses, divided into 2 battalions, each of 7 companies, besides a company of workmen of 102 officers and privates. In Algeria 9 companies, and 1 of workmen.

Train.—Construction parks, 44 officers and privates; repairing parks, 22 ditto; 5 squadrons of 24 companies, and 4 companies of workmen.

Veterans.—1 company of non-commissioned officers, and 4 of artillerymen, 648 of all ranks.

Administrative Services.—Military hospitals, 58 chaplains, 761 health officers, 335 officers of administration, 3,429 hospital aides, commissariat 3,365, clothing and encampment 375, intendance 340, and justice 84, officers and privates.

"The total amount voted for the Army under the head of Ministry of War, is 14,919,896*l.*, and 'credit essential for the inscription of military pensions,' 88,000*l.*, making a total of 15,007,896*l.* It will be necessary to add to this sum certain amounts in order to arrive at the real cost of the French Army, and to be able to institute comparisons between it and the British Army Estimates. The additions are:—In the Ministry of Finance, charges on the Consolidated Fund, Marshal Pelissier's dotation, 4,000*l.*; military pensions, 1,563,200*l.*; estimated proportion of expenditure

under the head of 'Legion of Honour, 454,503*l.*' In the Ministry of Public Works, 24,000*l.* for strategical roads; army dotation fund, 2,268,400*l.*, obtained from 'smart' paid for exoneration from military servitude, and charges on the Consolidated Fund, and expended in bounties, extra pay, &c. In the Ministry of the Interior, contribution to the Paris National Guards, 3,200*l.*; subvention to the Gardes de Paris, 153,880*l.*; barracks for gendarmes, 92,000*l.*; guard-houses, 1,200*l.* In the Ministry of Public Education, army chaplains, 1,132*l.* In the Navy, gunpowder and ordnance, 105,364*l.* In the Colonial Department, general, artillery, and engineers' staff, 24,730*l.*; gendarmerie, engineers, train, spahis, discipline companies, and native troops, 140,201*l.*; estimated proportion of cost of rations, hospitals, and transports, 223,279*l.*; and 71,868*l.* for military services of barracks, encampment, artillery, and engineering. In the Department of Algeria, for gunpowder, 11,648*l.*; army interpreters, 8,000*l.* Doubtless many other items should be included, such as those for horse-breeding establishments, and numerous works in Algeria. Leaving these aside, however, as being liable to be called in question, the items quoted and the sums voted to the Minister of War give a total of 20,158,501*l.* as the cost to the State of the French Army. Although it would be too tedious to establish an exact comparison, because of the different systems of keeping accounts in the two countries, an approximation can be made out that will be sufficient for all practical purposes, and that on the whole will convey an accurate idea of the expenses that figure in the French Budget and in the British Army Estimates:—

Services.	French Budget.	British Army Estimates.
	£	£
Administration	95,506	201,833
Pay, provisions, fuel, &c.	11,272,272	6,463,048
Clothing	876,431	525,416
Recruiting	1,151,714	82,894
Movement of troops	91,014	180,000
Justice.....	48,241	50,125
Purchase of horses	235,062	59,466
Forage	1,468,486	482,392
Stores and factories	1,478,467	3,160,004
Education	99,295	261,014
Barracks	93,200	690,159
Civil buildings	—	179,407
Fortifications	24,000	158,185
Pensions	3,225,936	2,112,808
	20,159,624	14,606,751

“ When it is remembered that the French Army is recruited by *conscription*, that military servitude is remunerated at a price paid

by the State below the market rate of labour, it will be evident that the 20,000,000*l.* sterling paid in taxes for the Army is very far from representing its full cost to the nation. What is the amount of real cost it is impossible to ascertain exactly. In his evidence before the Army Recruiting Commission, the Assistant Under Secretary of State for War in England, said, 'Conscription, which is at first sight and superficially a cheap mode of recruiting armies, is, in reality, the most expensive that can be adopted. It is a tax by lot—confessedly the very worst kind. . . . The case is still harder with those who cannot afford to purchase substitutes; on them the conscription is a tax which takes at one swoop their whole capital, *i. e.*, their labour and their time. . . . In these cases the pecuniary amount of the tax is represented by the difference between the value of the conscript's labour at his own calling and his pay as a soldier.' If we take this difference at 6*d.* a-day—which is certainly the lowest, and in the case of skilled labourers not a tithe of their loss—the annual value representing the unremunerated labour given by soldiers will be 3,935,416*l.*; for out of the 400,000 effectives of the French Army, there are 376,484 non-commissioned officers and privates, and 23,576 commissioned officers. Consequently, the total cost of the *French Army* will be 24,094,040*l.*, an amount which must appear onerous beyond measure to Englishmen, and dissipate many illusions among them as to the disproportion between the cost of the French and British Armies."
